



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Newsletter of the Federal Depository Library Program

Vol. 13, no. 17

GP 3.16/3-2:13/17

August 31, 1992

Revised Superseded List Distributed New Superseded List Committee Being Formed

The 1992 revision of the **Superseded List** has been published and should reach all depository libraries by the end of September. The publication lists superseded depository documents which libraries may discard before the end of the normal 5-year retention period.

This revision represents major efforts on the part of volunteers from depository libraries, who formed the Superseded List Committee. Committee members updated the entries from the previous list and added a voluminous amount of new information. Many thanks to all of you for your heroic efforts!

During the 6 years since the last edition, when the Superseded List appeared as Appendix C in the **Instructions to Depository Libraries**, many entries were discontinued, existing titles, publishers, and Superintendent of Documents class numbers changed, and new titles were published. Many changes also took place during the year in which the entries were compiled and edited.

Because of these on-going changes in Government publishing, the **Superseded List** by its nature can never be totally accurate and up-to-date. The Library Programs Service (LPS) wishes to collect changes to **Superseded List** data on an regular basis and publish revisions of the complete list more frequently, at least every other year.

The first revision will be needed sooner, in 1993, because annotations for regional library retention must be updated. The current edition contains regional retention information only for those entries which were included in the 1986 edition. No effort has yet been made to evaluate the new entries for regional retention. For this reason, **regional libraries are requested to be very conservative in making discard decisions for all new entries**, which are marked with a bullet (•).

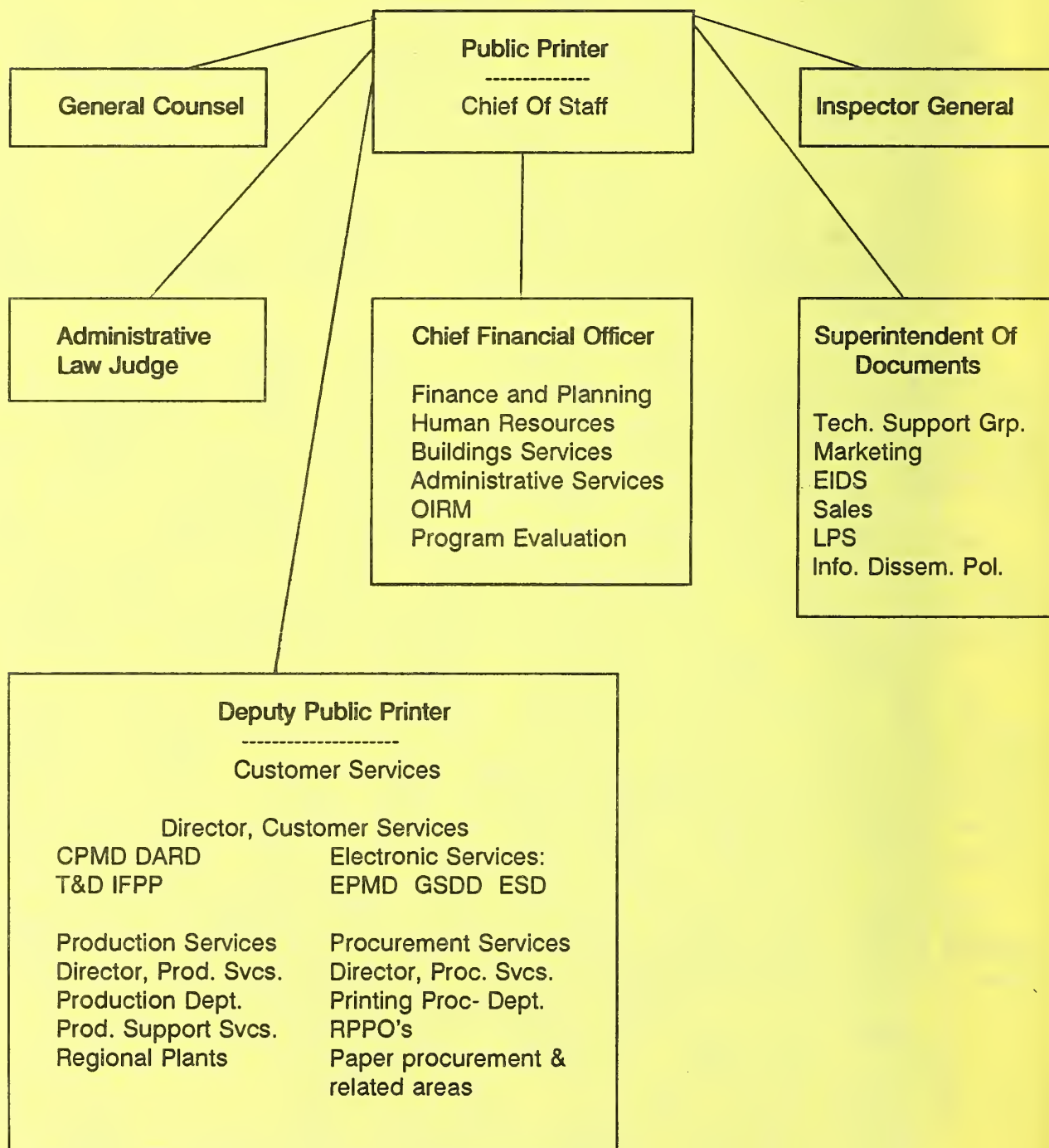
LPS would like to establish a semi-permanent committee of both regional and selective depository librarians to help with this revision effort. To volunteer, call or write:

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Library Programs Service, SLL
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Washington, DC 20401

(202) 512-1119
Fax: (202) 512-1432

If you don't want to be on the committee, but would like to submit changes to the **Superseded List**, please send them to Marian MacGilvray at the above address at any time.

GPO Management Realignment



Treasury Circulars with Identified CFR Citations

Thomas Storck at the Department of the Treasury has compiled the following list of Treasury circulars cited in the **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)** and has sent it to the Library Programs Service to make available to depository libraries through **Administrative Notes**.

Treasury Circulars by number:	CFR Citation	Treasury Circulars by number:	CFR Citation
1-80	31 CFR 351	530	31 CFR 315
2-80	31 CFR 352	568	31 CFR 312
2-86	31 CFR 357	570	(Printed annually in FR on or about July1.) copies: 202-874-6850
3-67	31 CFR 342		
3-72	31 CFR 344		
3-80	31 CFR 353	577	31 CFR 261
4-67	31 CFR 317	653	31 CFR 316
21	31 CFR 240	655	31 CFR 211
55	31 CFR 100	678	31 CFR 235
92	31 CFR 203	750	31 CFR 321
154	31 CFR 225		questions: 304-420-6112
176	31 CFR 202	888	31 CFR 330
230	31 CFR 10	1001	31 CFR 245
	copies: 927-2720	1075	31 CFR 205
297	31 CFR 223	1076	31 CFR 209
300	31 CFR 306	1079	31 CFR 214
418	31 CFR 309		

Copies of many circulars may be obtained by calling Robert Reed at the Bureau of the Public Debt, 202-219-3360.



**Remember to Include
Your Depository Number
In All Correspondence With GPO!**

Readers Exchange

Out of the Least Esteemed Books

by

George Barnum

Head of Government Documents

The University Library

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

In his **The Books of a New Nation**, J.H. Powell refers to "...the Published Documents of the United States Government, most of which are, alas! books no collector esteems, and bibliographers have not studied."¹ Yet Powell goes on to make a compelling case for the study of the early published documents of the U.S. Government. Powell in the mid-1950s anticipated by thirty years the interest that is growing among librarians and collectors of today in the description and preservation of rare and valuable U.S. Government documents.

Powell's description of government publications as "books nobody could love, neither collector nor librarian nor bibliographer," becomes less and less true. A look at **AB Bookman** or **Bookman's Price Index** over the past few years will reveal an ever-increasing interest in Americana and a similarly increasing number of government documents, from Congressional reports to cartographic materials, trading in the marketplace.

What, then, constitutes rarity and value when applied to materials initially intended for wide dissemination with the goal of an informed populace? In fact many of the same considerations that guide most collectors and curators:

- Authority; has the author some specific importance?
- Graphic embellishment; maps, plates, photographs
- Fundamental Documents (Landmarks); early printings such as General Orders of the War Dept., or important Presidential proclamations
- Geographical discovery (especially the American West)
- Scientific & technological discovery (e.g.: patents)
- Change or revolution in any branch of government
- Landmark or controversial laws
- Significant hearings (e.g.: Warren Commission)
- Topics on which the government did ground-breaking research
- Printer (particularly in the pre-Government Printing Office era)
- Actual scarcity; small press runs, copies destroyed
- Association value
- Regional interest

This somewhat arbitrary list² may speak first to the collector, who seeks an actual market or monetary value. Naturally, the primary concern of the librarian in assessing the value of particular items is, or should be, the importance of the particular item as a

resource to the client or reader. The librarian's concern with market value, while an interesting gauge, is more in the realm of awareness of value to safeguard items from theft.

At the American Library Association's 107th Annual Conference in New Orleans in July, 1988, a program entitled "Government Documents as Rare Books" was jointly sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries' Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT), and the Map and Geography Roundtable (MAGERT). At this session, rare books librarians, map librarians, and government documents librarians gathered to pursue their common concerns in the area of rare and valuable documents. The following year, at a meeting of regional depository librarians preceding the fall meeting of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer, a program by experts in the rare book market, government documents bibliography, and preservation again heightened the awareness of documents librarians in particular to the very real need to look closely at their collections as historical resources.

The clear message of both of these meetings, and the ongoing "movement" that has developed in the time since, is summarized by David Heisser, Head of General Reference at Tufts University, in the conclusion of his presentation at the ALA session in New Orleans: "I would encourage my colleagues to review the documents holdings in their libraries, and also encourage government documents librarians, map librarians, and rare books and manuscripts specialists within their institutions to discuss these issues, to explore their collections, and to take appropriate action."³

The "appropriate action" is a threefold proposition: assessment, preservation, and promotion. Each has its thorny side, but the thorniest of all is perhaps the issue of assessment, an area in which those in the government documents arena must venture into the darkness, with advice from rare books and manuscripts colleagues as the one small light.

Several approaches to the question of what is of particular interest in our collections are being advanced. The first is listing. There is a genuine reluctance on the part of many librarians to begin compiling and publishing lists of those items in our collections that are of particular interest and value, based either on scholarship and research or on market values. The need for a basic list of what librarians with older collections should be safeguarding comes into direct opposition with those who say that such a list would create a "hit list" for thieves, artificially driving up prices on the market and endangering collections that might otherwise have slumbered peacefully in anonymity.

Such a list was prepared by William Moffett at Oberlin College,⁴ following the Shinn incident of a few years ago, and has been criticized for the very reason cited above. Yet it, along with scattered mentions in occasional articles⁵ constitute the available literature and are used frequently.

Another approach suggests that all documents in a collection that fall within a particular chronological range should be treated as rare materials. The frequently cited benchmark for such treatment is the first really meaningful bibliography of federal

publications, the **Checklist of United States Public Documents 1789-1909**, published in 1909 and compiled based on the collection of the Superintendent of Documents (known as the 1909 Checklist). The size of this list (around 1700 pages!) speaks to the inadequacy of a blanket approach of this kind.

Thus, what is evolving as an answer to the question of how to assess collections is the need for librarians to become familiar with the sources available, beginning with the 1909 Checklist and such modern tools as are beginning to appear on the market, combined with a great deal of "current events" knowledge derived from such sources as rare book dealer's catalogs, **AB Bookman's Weekly** and the government documents literature.

The available literature on preservation is extensive and thoughtful. A representative selection of that literature will be available later in 1992 in the RBMS/GODORT/MAGERT packet on rare and valuable materials that will be distributed to all depositories. Documents collections pose unique problems, since a large number of documents series were not routinely hardbound, subjecting them to additional wear as well as chemical deterioration. No more pointed example can be cited than collections with large runs of paper Congressional hearings, sagging on the shelves from the weight of the world.

The third action we must take is promotion, that is making documents librarians and their administrators aware of the questions that older and valuable documents in a collection pose. It is astonishing to be at a table of several documents librarians (as I was recently), all with significant experience in the field, and find that as I began to talk about valuable documents it was as if I had begun speaking a strange new language. Only the kind of good talk that has sprung from the ALA session and the Regionals meeting of a couple of years ago can begin to change that. We also hope that the packet will contribute significantly.

While it may seem a concern of limited scope (only 1400 depositories exist and many are not of sufficient age or scope for these to be major concerns) the implications for scholars in many disciplines of the documentation and promotion of such collections as do still exist are far reaching and exciting.

1. J.H. Powell, **The Books of a New Nation; United States Government Publications, 1774-1814** (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1957) 17
2. This list, in a longer and more complete form, was part of a presentation by James M. Babcock at the presentation on Rare and Valuable Documents at the meeting of Regional Depository Librarians in Washington, D.C., 17 October 1989.
3. David Heisser, "Federal Documents as Rare Books," in "Government Documents as Rare Books," **Documents to the People**, 16/4, December 1988, 178
4. William Moffett, **The Shinn Lists** (Oberlin, Ohio, 1982)
5. For example Charles A. Seavey, "Government Graphics: The Development of Illustration in Federal Publications, 1817-1861," **Government Publications Review**, 17/2. March/April 1990, 121 or Heisser (above)



Contractor-Issued Microfiche Shipping Lists

August 18, 1992

1992-03

Shipping List #	Shipping List Date	Contractor	Contract #
92-1791-M	7/24/92	B&B	791
92-1792-M	7/24/92	B&B	791
92-1793-M	7/24/92	B&B	791
92-1862-M	7/24/92	B&B	791
92-1863-M	7/24/92	B&B	791
92-1864-M	7/31/92	B&B	791
92-1865-M	7/31/92	B&B	791
92-1866-M	7/31/92	B&B	791
92-1867-M	7/31/92	B&B	791
92-1868-M	7/31/92	B&B	791
92-1869-M	8/7/92	B&B	791
92-1870-M	8/7/92	B&B	791
92-1871-M	8/7/92	B&B	791
92-1872-M	8/7/92	B&B	791
92-1873-M	8/7/92	B&B	791
92-1874-M	8/14/92	B&B	791
92-1875-M	8/7/92	CMC	326
92-1876-M	8/7/92	CMC	326
92-1877-M	8/7/92	CMC	326
92-1922-M	8/7/92	CMC	326
92-1923-M	8/7/92	CMC	326
92-1924-M	8/14/92	B&B	791
92-1925-M	8/14/92	B&B	791
92-1926-M	8/14/92	B&B	791
92-1927-M	8/14/92	B&B	791
92-1932-M	8/14/92	CMC	326
92-1933-M	8/14/92	CMC	326
92-1934-M	8/14/92	CMC	326
92-1935-M	8/14/92	CMC	326

Contractor-Issued Microfiche Shipping Lists

August 18, 1992

1992-03

Shipping List #	Shipping List Date	Contractor	Contract #
92-1936-M	8/14/92	CMC	326
92-1928-M	8/21/92	B&B	791
92-1929-M	8/21/92	B&B	791
92-1930-M	8/21/92	B&B	791
92-1931-M	8/21/92	B&B	791

The E-Report

Status of Federal Electronic Information

August 18, 1992

1992-06

Agency	Item #	Class #	Title/Format	Status
Census	0154-D	C 3.278:	U.S. Imports Annual Survey and U.S. Exports Annual Survey CD	Will be distributed with the Monthly Foreign Trade Data.
National Geophysical Data Center			Geophysics of North America CD	Will not be a depository item. Available from National Geophysical Data Center, 325 Broadway, E/GC1, Dept. 883, Boulder, CO 80303-3328 @ \$590 Tel: (303) 497-6120
National Geophysical Data Center			Gravity CD	Will not be a depository item. Available from: National Geophysical Data Center, 325 Broadway, E/GC1, Dept. 883, Boulder, CO 80303-3328 @ \$277 Tel: (303) 497-6120

Whatever Happened To . . . ? ? ?

August 18, 1992

1992-07

Class no.	Item no.	Status
C 55.2:G 51/2	0250-E-02	Relief Globe Slides from the National Geophysical Data Center. Publisher cannot provide the slides.
C 55.2:V 88/set I C 55.2:V 88/set II	0250-E-02	Volcanoes in Eruption. (set I & II) Publisher cannot provide the slides.

Update to the List of Classes

August 19, 1992

1992-08

Class no.	Item no.	Change/Notice
C 3.134/6:	0150-B-01	USA Counties, A Statistical Abstract Supplement (CD) New. Ordered using item number 0154-B-01. Selection records have been transferred to the new item number: 0150-B-01.
D 1.1/8:	0306-A-18	DIS (Defense Investigative Service) Achievements. (MF) New.
E 3.46/3-2:	0429-X-10	Oak Ridge Uranium Market Model (diskettes). (annual) New. Ordered using item number 0429-X. Selection records have been transferred to the new item number: 0429-X-10.
HE 3.3:	0523	Social Security Bulletin. Frequency changed to quarterly.
HE 20.39:	0483-L-04	Directories. (P) New.
HE 20.6517:	0491-B-16	National Expenditure Survey Research Findings. Format changed to MF.
HE 20.6517/3:	0491-B-16	National Medical Expenditure Survey Methods. (series) (MF) New.
HE 20.7311/2:	0494-K-05	Immunization Abstracts and Bibliography. Title changed to Immunization, Survey of Recent Research (annual)
I 19.115:	0621-E	FDC Newsletter. Title changed to: FGD (Federal Geographic Data) Newsletter. New class #: I 19.115/4:
LC 1.46:	0786-B	Performing Arts. Discontinued.
NCU 1.22:	0526-C	NCUA Investment Report. (series) (P) New.

Table of Contents

Revised Superseded List Distributed	1
GPO Management Realignment	2
Treasury Circulars with Identified CFR Citations	3
Readers Exchange: Old and Rare Documents	4
Contractor-Issued Microfiche Shipping Lists: 1992-03	7
The E-Report: 1992-06	8
Whatever Happened To . . . ? 1992-07	9
Update to the List of Classes: 1992-08	9



Illustration from Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Bighorn National Forest, [1992], U.S. Forest Service. A 13.92/2:B 48/2/supp.

Administrative Notes is published in Washington, DC by the Superintendent of Documents, Library Programs Service, Government Printing Office, for the staffs of U.S. Federal Depository Libraries. It is generally published twice a month; some months have additional issues. Postmaster send address changes to:

The Editor, *Administrative Notes*
 U.S. Government Printing Office
 Library Programs Service, SLL
 Washington, D.C. 20401